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VIRGINIA TOBACCO IN RUSSIA.

[Randolph MSS., Virginia Historical Society MSS. Collections.]

At the Court at St. James the 31st of May, 1705—

PRESENT.

The Queen's Most Excellent Majesty in Council upon reading this day at the board a Report from the Lords Commissioners for Trade and Plantations in the words following:

May it please your Majesty's commands, Signified to us by the Right Hon^{ble} Mr. Secretary Harley, we have examin'd a petition of Several Merchants of Virginia and Maryland complaining of undue Practices in Muscovy by some of your Majesty's Subjects in relation to the Vending and Manufacturing Tobacco there. We have heard the Petioners, and likewise Nath. Gould, and Wm. Dawson, Edwd Haistwell, Sam'l Heathcot and others, as also Joseph Martin in the behalf of his Partners, who are alledg'd to be concern'd in the said Practices, and upon the whole matter do find that the said Nath: Gould and others who had made a contract with the Czar of Muscovy here in England in the year 1698, for importing certain Quantity of Tobacco into his Dominions, which they accordingly did perform, and wanting a vent for the same, whereby great part of the Same Tobacco became dry, and like to be unfit for sale, unless the same method as in England were us'd for the Preservation thereof, they had thereupon sent over one Peter Marshall and his wife, versed in the cutting and Rowling of Tobacco, together with Instruments and materials thereunto necessary, with a design as they alledge, to recall the said Persons immediately after their having perform'd this Particular Service, without allowing them the Liberty

to employ their Skill in Rowling or cutting any Tobacco of the growth of the Dominions of the czar, and we do likewise find that the said Mr. Joseph Martin, Merchant of London, by his son Mr. Samuel Martin and James Spilman, his correspondents at Moscow, have very lately made a contract with some officers for the importation of other Quantities of Tobacco into those Dominions from England, as likewise for the sending thither as many Persons skilled in the spinning and rowling of Tobacco, as the Czar shou'd require, with the Instruments, Engines, Materials, and Liquors commonly used in that work, to be employ'd not only for the manufacturing of English Tobacco thus imported, but even for the Tobacco of the growth of Circassia, a large Province appertaining to that Prince, by which means his Subjects wou'd become equally Skill'd in that mystery, with any of your Majesty's Subjects, dealers in Tobacco, which Proceedings being of most Pernicious consequence to the Trade of your Majesty's Subjects, and the welfare of your Plantations. We are humbly of the Opinion, that the Persons mention'd to have been sent already to Moscow, by the first contractors, may immediately be recalled by Letters of Privy Seal, to be sent to your Majesty's Envoy for that purpose, and that the Engines already there to be order'd by your Majesty to be broken and destroyed in the Presence of your Majesty's Envoy, and also that the saide Martin and his correspondents and all other persons whatsoever, be directed by your Majesty's Declaration in such manner as your Majesty shall think Proper, not to send any persons versed in this mystery, or any Instruments and materials for the same, or employing any Persons therein, notwithstanding any clause in the said contract obliging to a matter so injurious to other your Majesty's Subjects, and whereas the Petitioners, Merchants, and Planters of Virginia and Maryland, do suggest that several persons are solliciting for themselves at Moscow, the sole Trade and Intire Importation of Tobacco exclusive of all others into these parts.

We further humbly offer that your Majesty wou'd be Pleased to direct your Envoy at that Court that he be equally and impartially assisting to all your Majesty's Subjects in the free Trade of such Tobacco of the growth of your Majesty's Plan-

tations, as shall be imported into the Dominions of the Czar, all which nevertheless is most humbly Submitted.

DARTMOUTH,
ROBT. CECIL,
PH. MEADOWS,
WM. BLATHWAITE,
JOHN POLLEXFEN,
MAT. PRIOR.

Whitehall, 26 May, 1705.

Her Majesty in Council is pleased to approve thereof, and to order that the Right Hon^{ble} Secretary Harley do forthwith prepare a warrant for her Majesty's Royal Signature to pass the Privy Seal, for recalling the said Marshall and his wife out of the Dominions of the Czar, and that he cause the same to be sent to Her Majesty's Envoy there for that Purpose, with direction to him to take care for the Safe Conveyance of the said Person into this Kingdom as also to cause the said Engines & materials already there to be broken and destroy'd in his presence, in the most private and effectual manner that may be, and as to the Proceedings of the said Mr. Martin's correspondents, in making a contract without her Majesty's knowledge and allowance in a matter so injurious to other Her Majesty's Subjects, her Majesty is pleased to declare her utmost dislike of so much thereof as relates to the manufacturing in Muscovy of the native Product of her Majesty's Dominions, and furnishing the Persons and materials thereunto necessary which is contrary to the Interest and usage of Her Majesty's Kingdoms, and to order that the same be signify'd to the same Martin and his correspondents, and that they and also the Russia Company, and all other Persons whatsoever forbear to send any Persons into Muscovy versed in the mystery of Spinning and rowling Tobacco or any Instruments or materials for the same, or to employ any person therein as they'd tender her Majesty's displeasure and will answer the contrary at their perils. And the Lords Commissioners taking notice in the Same Report that several persons are soliciting for themselves at Moscow the Sole Trade and Intire Impotation of Tobacco, exclusive of all others in those parts: It is further

ordered by her Majesty in Council that Mr. Secretary Harley do also prepare for her Majesty's Royal Signature the necessary Letters and Orders to her Majesty's Envoy relating to the said Trade and otherwise as shall be most Proper, according to the Tenor of the said Report.

JOHN POVEY.

To the Queen's most Excellent Majesty:

The humble Petition of the contractors with the Czar of Muscovy for importing Tobacco into his Dominions, therewith—

That your Petitioners with the knowledge and consent of his late Majesty's and Secretarys of State did contract with the Czar of Muscovy to import a great quantity of Virginia Tobacco into his Dominions, upon payment of fourpence p. pound custom and other conditions.

That they on their side have punctually performed all the part of their contract, but the Czar having not hindered the sale of Circassian Tobacco as was agreed, and by reason of many other hardships put upon them, they have not been able in Seven years time to sell two third parts of what they imported, and that for some time past, the Czar hath prohibited the sale of their remaining Tobacco in Moscow.

That their agents in Moscow did advise them, their Tobacco being in Leaf wou'd all rot and Perish before it could be disposed of, in case it was not made up in Rowles to preserve it, and therefore desired your Petitioners to reccommend a fit Person to do it.

Accordingly they encourag'd one Peter Marshall and his wife to go to Moscow, where they arriv'd about six months ago, but as yet have made but little Progress in preserving their said Tobacco.

That they are inform'd an order of Council has been made to recall home the said Marshall and his wife immediately, and to destroy all their Engines and materials employ'd about Spinning Tobacco, and will ruin the Remainder of your Petitioners Tobacco there, amounting to the value of fifty thousand pounds.

They humbly represent they never had nor have any farther design in sending the said Marshall and his Wife, than meerly to preserve their Tobacco they sent from hence, nor ever intended to keep him longer there than till that were performed, and when that is done, they are content to have all their Engines and materials made unserviceable and Marshall and his wife recalled. Wherefore your Petioners do most humbly pray your Majesty to give them such Relief in the Premises as to your great wisdom shall seem meet.

and your petitioners shall ever pray.

Sr. Ow: Buckingham,	Nath: Gould,
Thos: Leawen,	Edward Darrell,
Hen: Lyell,	Wm. Dawson,
Will: Heathcott,	D. Hechstetter,
Sam: Sheppherd,	Sr. Wm. Leawen,
John: Tunston,	Rob: Hatwood,
Thos: Byfield,	Sr. Edm. Harrison,
John: Heathcott,	Sr. Theo. Janssen,
Sr. Gibberd Heathcott,	Sam: Heathcott,
Edw. Haistwell.	

To the Queen's most Excellent Majesty.

The humble Petition of several merchants and Planters trading in Virginia & Maryland Tobaccos, in the behalf of themselves & others. Sheweth,

That the Petitioners being inform'd the first contractors with the Czar have petitioned your Majesty to Suspend your Majesty's order of council for the recalling Peter Marshall and his wife sent to make Roll Tobacco in Moscow, on pretence of great Damages. Tho it is evident the Trade to the Plantations of Virginia & Maryland are in the utmost danger by such measures, as well as the Trade of this your Majesty's Kingdom, in general, which is humbly hoped to be of far greater consequence than the particular Interest of any Traders whatever. Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray, that your majesty would be graciously pleas'd to consider the Premises, with the Schedule

and reasons annex'd, and do therein what your Majesty in your great Wisdom shall think most meet.

and your Petitioners shall ever pray.

Sign'd,

Micajah Perry,	Tho. Loyd,
Tho. Lane,	Jon ^a Pearth,
Tho. Coutts,	Tim ^o Kreyser,
Rich'd Perry,	Fran. Willis,
Isaac Millner,	John Brown,
John Cooper,	John Goodwin,
Tho. Wyck,	Wm. Fisher,
Benj ^a Bradley,	Tho. Corbyn,
Rob. Seamour,	Jno. Maynard,
John Brown,	Rob. Dunkley,
Tho. Sanford,	Abr ^a Spranger,
Fra. Sitwell,	Sam. Deane,
Tho. Warton,	Tho: Bond.

A Schedule of the goods belonging to Mr. Peter Marshall, delivered at Custom House Key, and enter'd by Mr. John Vans for Russia the 3d June, 1704.

12 wheat Penns, 1 Engine for running of Roll, 1 large flour Screw'd Standing Press with 10 Boards, 2 Double screw'd presses, 6 single Presses with 16 Boards, 1 Engine with Knives, 3 Standing Presses, 2 mortar Presses, 5 Doz. Boxes, 8 Doz. wreathing wheels, 4 Sives & 2 Dusters, 4 Iron pins, 12 wreathing Tables, 1 mortar, 44 Plates, 40 Blocks.

From the above schedule we observe that the tools they sent will require at least 100 Persons which must be all Russes, and will by that means instruct and teach them that art and mystery which is all the Czar desires and what we have just cause to fear. The truth of which is thus demonstrated, the 12 wreathing Tables cannot work under 36 persons, and to employ them is employed Strippers, Sorters, Liquorers, wrapper-makers, Roll-makers, and men to manage the Presses, and hand the work not less than 70 or 80 Persons more, so that not less than 100 hands can carry on the work and such being instructed doth

effectually answer the Ruin of the Trade and establish the Russes therein.

We further observe—

That the contractors in their Petition to relax the order given to recall Peter Marshall, do pretend, that the envoy shall have the immediate Inspection of all the Works, which in its nature is impracticable. Its further evident that the Czar hath made a 2d contract, wherein he hath given many valuable advantages to the contractors to bring him workmen &c. on his own account.

And that from the first contractor's petition it appears that the design of the Czar is to promote his own Tobacco.

And that the Czars subjects have already brought the Circasian Tobacco to the Ports of Neva and Dantzick.

And that if the Czar can have his people to make Tobacco agreeable to the market, it will be a Total loss of all the Northern trade with our Tobacco. All which will be a means to lessen the Revenue, discourage our navigation, and manufactory, to those Plantations and force the Planters to give over making Tobacco.

WHITE HALL, June the 15, 1705.

S^r. Since the presenting of our Report to her Majesty relating to the manufacturing of Tobacco in Muscovy, we have been attended by Mr. Gold and others, the first contractors with the Czar, who have desir'd us further to represent to her Majesty, that they shall sustain very great loss in their Tobacco, in case the persons employ'd by them now at Moscow, in the Rowling & manufacturing thereof, be order'd forthwith to come away, and their Engines to be immediately broken, according to her Majesty's present order, wherefore they humbly pray the said Persons may be permitted to stay some longer time there, and that the Engines be not destroy'd, till their work (and none other) be compleated, the said merchants offering withall, that Mr. Whitewith her Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary may judge what further time may be fit to be allow'd them upon the occasion. And that in the mean while they with their Engines be kept under Mr. Whitworth's care and inspection, after which the said merchants do readily concurr that the s^d persons be recall'd, and their Engines render'd useless, according to her

Majesty's directions, which you will please to lay before her Majesty with our humble opinion, that the favour at present be allow'd to these merchants in case the directions of this affair as to the time and manner of sending away those persons and destroying the Engines and materials, be wholly left to her Majesty's Envoy now in that court, and that the same Envoy be nevertheless Ordered to cause the same Persons to be convey'd out of Muscovy, and the Engines to be broken immediately, and without further Respite, in case he shall judge that any danger shall arise to the publick, in disclosing those mysteries by such prolongation of time.

We are Sr. your most humble servants,

Dartmouth,
Rob: Cecill,
Ph: Meadows,

Wm: B'athwaite,
John Pollexfen,
Mat: Prior,

Right Hon^{ble} Mr. Secretary Harley.

Coppy.

Anne R.

Anne, by the grace of God Queen of England, Scotland, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith &c., To the Fellowship of English Merchants for discovery of new Trades, commonly call'd or known by the name of the Russia Company, and to Sam: Martin, James Spelman, Joseph Martin and Robert Manwaring, merchants, and to all other persons whom the present may concern, Greeting:

Whereas it hath been represented to us by our commissioners for trade and Plantations, that the said Sam: Martin and James Spelman have at Moscow in the Dominions of the Czar of Muscovy, agreed to bring masters to Archangel, one or more whereof who understand to make black Roll Tobacco, and others who can cut Leaf Tobacco, and beat it into Pounds, and that can likewise teach others to perform the same and to bring thither all manner of Instruments necessary for the cutting and Rowling the same, and Sufficient Quantity of black Liquor, such as is us'd to Liquor Roll Tobacco, which agreement we do hereby declare to be made contrary to the Establish'd and known laws

of this our Kingdom of England, and to the Duty and allegiance they the said Sam: Martin and James Spelman owe to us their Sovereign, and therefore we do hereby strictly prohibit them the said Sam: Martin and James Spelman from Putting in Execution the said Agreement by them so made contrary to our Laws and the Duty and allegiance they owe to us, and we do hereby strictly charge and command them and the said Fellowship of English merchants for the discovery of new Trades, and the said Joseph Martin and Robert Manwaring, and all and every our Subjects, that they or any of them do not attempt or presume to send or cause or procure to be sent into the Dominions of the said Czar of Muscovy, or the Dominions of any other Prince whatsoever, any of our Subjects being skill'd or able to make black Roll Tobacco, or to cut Leaf Tobacco, and to beat it into Pounds, or that can teach others to perform the same or any manner of Instruments necessary for the cutting and Rolling the same or any black Liquor used to Liquor Roll Tobacco, and we do likewise hereby prohibit all our Subjects whatsoever skill'd in the making black Roll Tobacco, or in cutting or beating Leaf Tobacco from departing out of our Dominion without our Special Leave or License first obtained from us, for such departing, on pain of our highest displeasure, and of being proceeded against for their offending therein, and we hereby require our judges and all other our Officers of Justice, that they do proceed with the Utmost Rigor according to our Laws, against all Persons whatsoever that shall do or Act contrary to our Command herein contained.

Given at our Castle of Windsor the 17th day of June, 1705, in the fourth year of our Reign.

By her Majesty's Command,

Signed.

RO: HARLEY.